



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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VDOT BRISTOL'S WEEKLY TRAFFIC ALERT: August 24 - 30, 2009

BRISTOL, Va. – In an effort to keep motorists informed, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides weekly information about highway construction and maintenance projects in southwestern Virginia. When traveling through highway work zones, use caution and be alert to changes in traffic patterns and slow-moving or stopped traffic.

Motorists face a maximum fine of \$500 for speeding in highway work zones. Law enforcement officers monitor highway work zones throughout the region.

INTERSTATE PROJECTS

*****Interstate 77 -- bridge project in West Virginia at Exit 1:** Due to bridge project near Exit 1 in West Virginia scheduled from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. each night beginning Monday (August 24), traffic at times may back up to the northbound I-77 East River Mountain Tunnel in Virginia. When traffic from West Virginia backs up inside the tunnel, personnel are required to place a lane closure inside the tunnel to keep carbon monoxide at safe levels and to keep a lane open for emergency vehicles. Motorists are advised to be alert to the possibility of traffic back-ups. (Completion: September 2009)

*****Interstate 81 at Exit 77 - ramp closure:** Due to overpass, ramp and frontage road paving at Interstate 81 Exit 77 in Wythe County, the ramps will be closed this week from midnight to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday nights. Weather permitting, the southbound ramps at Exit 77 will be milled and paved the overnight hours of August 24 and 25, followed by the northbound ramps on August 26 and 27. If weather delays the current schedule, be alert to ramp closures during the overnight hours on August 28.

During the closures, motorists should use Exits 80 and 73 to access the frontage roads. Flaggers will control frontage road traffic at Exit 77. Use caution in the area and obey all work zone signs. (Completion: Friday, August 28)

Interstate 81 – guardrail: Anticipate lane closures this week on southbound Interstate 81 between Exit 60 and the Smyth/Wythe County line due to guardrail installation in the area. (Completion: August 2009)

Interstate 81 – rumble strip: Be alert to daytime lane closures on Interstate 81 between mile markers 63 and 66 in Wythe County due to the application of rumble strips along the shoulder. (Completion: August 2009)

Interstate 81 Safety Improvements – Wythe County: Be alert to periodic lane closures due to extension of the Interstate 81 Exit 77 northbound deceleration lanes of the southbound and northbound ramps. Also be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to the extension of the Interstate 81 Exit 80 right turn lanes of the southbound and northbound ramps. Use caution in this area while safety improvements are underway. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

*****Interstate 77 maintenance activities:** Anticipate lane closures due to the following maintenance activities on Interstate 77:

- Guardrail repairs north and southbound in Carroll, Wythe and Bland counties.
- Pothole patching northbound along the I-77 corridor in Virginia.
- Bridge deck patching southbound near mile marker 42 in Wythe County.

*****Interstates 81 maintenance activities:** The following maintenance activities are scheduled along Interstate 81 in southwestern Virginia this week:

- Guardrail repairs north and southbound in Washington, Smyth and Wythe counties.
- Pothole patching north and southbound in Washington, Smyth and Wythe counties.
- Bridge deck patching northbound near Exit 69 in Wytheville and southbound near mile marker 16 in Abingdon and near Exit 35 in Chilhowie.

PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AND HIGH TRAFFIC SECONDARY ROADS:

*****Pavement Markings - mobile, rolling work zones:** Be alert to a caravan of slow-moving trucks applying pavement markings on highways at various locations **at areas near Interstate 81 in Washington, Smyth and Wythe counties.**

Buchanan County

Route 460 Grundy – Phase II: Motorists should be alert to the possibility of lengthy delays on Route 460 in the Cow Town area in the coming weeks due to excavation and blasting work in the area. Pay close attention to flaggers directing traffic through the area.

The blasting and excavation work is part of the Phase II widening of Route 460 in Grundy, from the newly constructed section of Route 460 in downtown Grundy to Route 615 in the Cow Town area. (Completion: mid-November 2011)

Buchanan County- Water Line Installation: Work to install water lines in the following areas of Buchanan County will restrict traffic to one lane during daylight hours:

- Route 601 – Convict Hollow (Completion: summer 2009)
- Route 655 – Lynn Camp (Completion: September 2009)

Dickenson County

*****Route 690 (Stone Hollow):** Motorists can expect lengthy delays on Route 690 (Stone Hollow) in Dickenson County Monday (August 24) due to a pipe installation project. (Completion: August 24, 2009)

Water line installation – various routes: Be alert to periodic lane closures on various secondary routes throughout Dickenson County due to the Big Caney III and IV and the Multi-Community water line installation projects. (Completion: summer 2010)

Route 80 – water line installation: Work to install water lines on Route 80 in Dickenson County is underway. The project is located between the intersection of Route 682 and the Dickenson County line. Use caution in this area. (Completion: late summer 2009)

Route 611 widening: Work is underway to widen Route 611 in Dickenson County, just north of Clintwood. Drivers should expect delays in the area and watch for flaggers controlling traffic on weekdays during daylight hours. (Completion: August 2009)

Grayson County

Route 58 bridge repairs: Due to bridge repairs, traffic is being controlled by signals on the Route 58 bridge over Peach Bottom Creek located just east of Independence in Grayson County. The bridge is restricted to one 14-foot-wide lane during repairs. Use caution in this area. (Completion: May 2010)

Route 842 (Twin Pond Road): Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 842 (Twin Pond Road) in the Fries area. (Completion: December 2009)

Route 748 (Laurel Creek Road): Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 748 (Laurel Creek Road) in the Rugby area. (Completion: December 2009)

Lee County

Alternate Route 58: Due to a bridge reconstruction project, signals are controlling one 12-foot-wide lane across the Alternate Route 58 bridge over the North Powell River in Pennington Gap. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to signs in the work zone. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

Russell County

Route 82 (Cleveland Road): Be alert to the possibility of delays on Route 82 (Cleveland Road) in Russell County due to curve widening work. (Completion: September 2009)

Route 618: A section of Route 618 in the Rabbit Ridge section of Russell County has been closed to allow Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC to perform surface mine operations in the area. The 0.4-mile section begins about one-mile east of Route 600 and extends eastward. When the mining operations are complete, Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC will rebuild the closed section of Route 618, eliminating steep grades and sharp curves along the existing section of Route 618.

Russell County- Water Line Installation: Work to install water lines is underway on:

- Route 19 between Lebanon and Hansonville in Russell County. Motorists may also experience delays on Routes 657 and 660 due to the project. (Completion: summer 2009)
- Route 657 (Green Valley Road) (Completion: November 2009)

Use caution and be alert to traffic restrictions during daylight hours.

Smyth County

Route 622 (Nick's Creek Road): Due to a project to widen and replace a bridge on Route 622 (Nick's Creek Road) in Smyth County, a section of the route is closed to traffic. Motorists can detour around the project by using Kelly Hill Road, Pierce Road, Big Prater Road and Route 16. Motorists are advised to use caution in this area and pay close attention to detour signs. (Completion: December 1, 2009)

Tazewell County

Route 19/460 bridge project: Two-way traffic through the Route 19/460 bridge work zone has been shifted to the southbound lanes. Use caution and slow down through the work zone while motorists become familiar with the new traffic pattern. The Lake Street entrance to Route 19/460 is temporarily detoured onto Post Street due to the construction. Additionally, the entrance to Quarry Road will be temporarily detoured through the Miner's Oil entrance. There will be a 12-foot-width restriction in the work zone. (Completion: October 2009)

Wise County

Alternate Route 58 – water and sewer line installation: Motorists may experience periodic lane closures on Alternate Route 58 between St. Paul and Virginia City and between Carfax and Virginia City due to water and sewer line installation projects. (Completion: December 2009)

Route 78 bridge: Traffic crossing the Route 78 bridge over Callahan Creek at Appalachia is being controlled by signals. The bridge has been reduced to one 12-foot-lane while the superstructure is being replaced. (Completion: November 2009)

Wythe County

Route 649 – Atkins Mill Road: Be alert to the possibility of lane closures on a section of Route 649 (Atkins Mill Road) in the Wytheville area due to roadway improvements. (Completion: December 2009)

Route 100 bridge and Route 637 (Greenbriar Road): Due to bridge repairs, the Route 100 bridge over Little Reed Island Creek has been restricted to one 12-foot-wide lane and traffic signals are controlling traffic on both ends of the bridge. Route 637 (Greenbriar Road) in Wythe County has been closed due to the bridge project. Route 100 can be accessed from Route 637 about 1.5-miles south of the bridge project (Completion: May 2010)

Completed

Route 689 (Brumley Gap Road): The pipe installation project on a section of Route 689 (Brumley Gap Road) has been completed.

Route 94 bridge over New River: Repairs to the Route 94 bridge over the New River in Grayson County have been completed. (END)